



# Fort Carson-MEDDAC News

## MEDDAC dedicates building for fallen Army medic

By: Stacy Neumann, Medical Department Activity Public Affairs

The Woods Family gathered around the green curtain hanging on the side of the U.S. Army MEDDAC building. When they pulled it off, a bronze plaque depicting father and son gleamed, both turned inwards, smiling at one another. With that, the dedication of the new Private First Class Eric P. Woods Soldier Family Care Center was complete.

MEDDAC hosted Woods' widow Jamie, son Eric Scott, parents, grandparents and other members of his Iowa-based Family on Friday, July 27th, for the ceremony honoring the fallen medic's sacrifice. Woods died in Tal Afar, Iraq, in 2005 while serving with the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The combat medic went into an area under fire to treat a Soldier shot by a sniper. Leaving the area, their armored ambulance was hit by an improvised explosive device. A team of officers and NCOs eventually asked that the SFCC building be named for Woods.

His former platoon leader spoke at the memorialization ceremony, describing a confident and dedicated medic whose contribution gave his unit the ability to execute any mission.

Captain William Hamrick, now commander of the Warrior Transition Battalion's B Company, told the crowd, "Many Americans have a good understanding that a Combat Medic is charged with saving lives at point of injury in an austere environment, and Woods excelled in that scenario many times during this tour. His family should be honored for the number sons and fathers he returned home alive."

Woods' father Charles wanted the group to understand the man they chose to honor. He described a son "full of life from the very beginning" who was active in sports, church and adored his wife and child. He also talked about a Soldier dedicated to his craft.

Woods said, "He took his duty to heart and was always very concerned for the welfare of his guys. He would call home and have us ship things that weren't available to him at the time. We're proud as a family to see this beautiful medical facility and be there to carry Eric's name on."

During this warm Colorado morning, his younger brother Brian Woods spoke about how he was always trying to follow in his older brother's footsteps. He focused on leadership and pride.



“He was always in front of the line. He was always striving to be a part of something bigger than himself. I’m proud of my brother for making the tough decision and doing the right thing when the wrong thing would have been so much easier. I’m proud of the way that he served his country as a medic,” said Woods. “Once again he gets to be part of something larger than himself, grander than he could do alone.”

Woods went on to say that he felt the building and the people inside embody all of the things he loved about his brother. Col. John M. McGrath, MEDDAC commander, said that staff will endeavor to prove that the building is worthy of its name.

“We, like Private First Class Woods, have a duty to provide care to our own, in a military Family environment that recognizes the sacrifices and stresses of the Army life. I know that occurs every day in this building,” said McGrath.

The Private First Class Woods Soldier Family Care Center is located adjacent to and east of Evans Army Community Hospital. It provides support to more than 27,000 Soldier, Family and retirees. Each day, almost 500 military, civilian and Red Cross volunteers provide support for more than 1,500 patient visits.